

Waikato and Coromandel

The Waikato* area is mostly agricultural, predominantly dairy and forestry. A number of industrial and food processing facilities are also located here and have demonstrated strong growth in recent years.

Growth in the dairy sector and in food processing has been instrumental in driving recent increases in electricity demand and subsequent network developments. They have also fostered general economic growth in the region.

The high rates of growth in the region have created issues with security of electricity supply. Some areas are now vulnerable to failure of key network equipment.

The largest proposed project in this area is the construction of a new substation at Putaruru to improve the security of supply.

There has been strong growth in demand for electricity in the Coromandel area which is expected to continue, especially in popular holiday towns.

Demand for electricity is very 'peaky' (high electricity demand for relatively short periods) because of the large influx of people during holidays. This puts enormous strain on the network and businesses reliant on income during these periods are understandably sensitive to power supply issues at peak times.

Powerco has invested extensively to support growth on the Coromandel, including the construction of a new power line between Coroglen and Kaimarama in 2011. However, there are still capacity and reliability issues on some parts of the Coromandel network, driven by growth.

During a five year period starting 1 April 2018 Powerco plans to spend about \$140 million on growth and security projects in the Waikato and Coromandel area. As part of the renewal programme it plans to spend \$70 million which includes the replacement of 70km of overhead line and 1,900 poles.



- Powerco Zone Substation
- New Substation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network

2016 customer connections = 72,645

*Note: The Powerco network does not include Hamilton which is covered by WEL.